



Sitting pretty: The Bird chair and Eames chair and stool are timeless classics

Bird chair

Eames chair

Opening gambit: Mark Riese (inset) says grey walls can make rooms feel more spacious

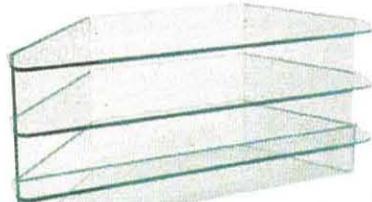
Retro seats of yearning



This week, **Mark Riese** from Urban Living Interiors offers mid-century design advice and TV display ideas.

Q: I want to dabble in mid-century design in my living room. What should I avoid and what should I go for?

A: This term describes design from roughly 1940 to 1965. But more generally the 1950s. There was so much being created, fusing wonderful functionality and new materials in innovative ways. Prominent designers include Harry Bertoia, Charles and Ray Eames, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Arne Jacobsen, Isamu Noguchi and Eero Saarinen, all of whom have wonderful items still in production. Try to buy originals as the quality is guaranteed and they generally hold their value.



A clear choice: Stylish glass television stand

The Eames lounge chair with stool is a bent-wood and leather classic that still makes a statement, both for style and comfort. Enquire at Vitra (vitra.com) or Conran (conranshop.co.uk) with prices from around £6,000 for new authorised products.

Colour was also a feature of this period. One of my favourites is the Bertoia Bird chair (this one's in my home!) shown here in blue wool weave over the intricate steel seat structure just visible underneath. Others such

as the Saarinen Tulip table and chairs, Barcelona chair and coffee table and the Noguchi coffee table join this group of timeless classics to be enjoyed for years to come.

Q: I have a very strange and interesting shaped one-bedroom corner flat, on the top floor of our building. I want to decorate it with colours that will make my living space seem bigger. Help!

A: Strange and interesting sounds good. The top floor could mean lots of light or could mean poor ceiling height, where the roof slope intrudes.

There are no rules when tackling these challenges. Sometimes we have to be brave and experiment. I have never been scared of using dark colours to change space dynamics. Experimenting with colour will transform your space in an easy way that allows equally quick and low cost remedial action if you are not happy. White is the

easy answer – all over; but why not head for grey? Just be careful as some greys go towards blue which can be colder or more masculine, while other greys have a pink or purple tone. And then there is simply a true grey. A good mid-grey with teal accents – I love the Urbane Grey paint from Little Greene (No 225, littlegreene.com) – with statement pieces of furniture is a winning formula. Now here's my top tip: the clever way to make walls feel taller and the room feel more spacious is to paint the ceiling and skirting boards the same colour as your walls. It adds height and volume.

Q: I'd like a cool TV unit – is there such a thing? All I can find are wooden-style ones.

A: One of the best we found is made entirely from glass to help achieve a lighter look with the functionality you need (greenapple.co.uk – prices start from £396).

Mark Riese is creative director at luxury furnishing company Urban Living Interiors, which provides furnishings from its London studio and showroom. urbanlivinginteriors.co.uk

METRO Reader Offer

£10 off
your first crate
+ 2 FREE beers

Beer52 is an online community for lovers of craft beer. Each month you'll enjoy 8 exclusive beers, handpicked by our experts from microbreweries around the world. Supporting the little guy and helping create the best tasting beers.

We work directly with breweries to get you access to the freshest beer available. From the brewery into your glass within 4-6 weeks.

Sound good? To get started, simply go to our site and enter your exclusive voucher code!

The UK'S No.1 Craft Beer Club

GO TO: WWW.BEER52.COM/METRO7
USE CODE: METRO7

Valid for 30 days from receipt, cancel anytime.

This voucher is valid for UK residents aged 18 or over, and entitles you to £10 towards your first crate of craft beer from Beer52. Delivery is Free, so there are no hidden charges, and crates cost £24 each month. This voucher can only be used once, and cannot be combined with other vouchers or promotions. You are under no obligation to continue, memberships can be cancelled at any time. Full terms at Beer52. This offer is operated by Beer52 Limited, a company wholly independent of Associated Newspapers.

Got a query for our experts?
Text HOME, your name then question to
65400* or tweet @Metrofeatures

*standard network charges apply